



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Mathus et al. GROUP: 1743
SERIAL NO: 09/457,796 EXAMINER: Patricia K. Bex
FILED: 12/09/99
FOR: TUBE RACK

V. Lawrence
#1013
6/25/02

Box RCE
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
JUN 24 2002
TC 1700

Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION

In response to the Office Action mailed on 03/15/2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 26 and 28 as follows:

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sub
217

- 1 26. (Amended) A tube rack comprising:
- 2 a base having a top surface and oppositely facing side walls, said top surface
- 3 being subdivided into an array of tube-receiving first openings, each of said side walls having a
- 4 trunnion protruding outwardly therefrom, with said trunnions being aligned coaxially; and
- 5 a cover having oppositely facing side walls with notches in said side walls
- 6 having downwardly facing second openings, said cover being configured and dimensioned to